NRCS CRP Note #114
FSA Conservation Message #169
February 7, 2005

This document was prepared jointly by the Minnesota offices of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA). It is intended to clarify the eligibility criteria, determination procedures and documentation requirements of the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). It also clarifies each agency's responsibilities when processing offers for the CCRP. The document does not replace the NRCS-FOTG (eFOTG), the National FSA 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Handbook or applicable CRP Notices. Updates to this document will be made as deemed necessary by NRCS and FSA State Office staff. *Practices eligible for CCRP under the public wellhead protection area criteria are not included in this CRP Note.*

A. Sequence of Program Sign-up Activities

The CCRP sign-up procedure starts when an interested customer makes an inquiry to FSA, NRCS or a Technical Service Provider (TSP). TSPs and conservation partners providing assistance to customers on CCRP need to coordinate their work through the local USDA staff.

All CCRP requests are referred to the local **FSA** office. **FSA** determines;

- if the customer meets eligibility requirements,
- if basic land and practice eligibility criteria are met,
- if program policy and practice requirements are met as per Exhibit 9 of the 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Handbook.

An on-site review by **FSA** to determine the above may be needed. Based on the practice request submitted by the customer, **FSA** generates form CRP-2C and a photocopy of the approximate acreage offered, and refers the producer to **NRCS**. **FSA** gives the CRP-2C and an aerial map to **NRCS**.

NRCS or a **TSP determines based on a site visit:**

- if the purpose(s) of the practice(s) according to Exhibit 9 in the 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Handbook are met,
- if the acreage is suitable for the offered practice(s),
- if the practice(s) is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern and,
- completes the "Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability Worksheet" for each practice listed on the CRP-2C,
- fills in block 13 of the CRP-2C,
- returns the CRP-2C and a copy of the "Documentation" worksheets to **FSA**.

If the customer is still interested in enrolling the eligible offered acreage into the CCRP, **FSA** completes a CRP-1 for customer signature and **NRCS** or a **TSP** completes:

- the Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (NRCS-CPA-052),
- a conservation plan in ToolKit,
- a Conservation Plan Schedule of Operations (AD-1155), and
- a detailed practice design and/or a job sheet for each practice on the CRP-2C.

All conservation practices designed by **NRCS** or a **TSP** must meet;

- the requirements of the corresponding FOTG practice standard. (Sites where a practice design does not or can not meet the requirements of the corresponding FOTG practice standard are only acceptable if a request for a waiver, signed by the contract holder and practice designer, are approved by the NRCS State Conservationist **prior** to implementation of the practice. NRCS - DCs, FSA or MNDNR does not have the authority to grant waivers to NRCS practice standards).
- the Minnesota Upland Treatment Policy and,
- the 2-CRP Handbook requirements.

NRCS will refer all applicable CCRP forestry practices to the **MN Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry** to be designed by a forester. **DNR** will submit the completed forestry practice design(s) to **NRCS** for inclusion in the conservation plan.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
Through a national level Cooperative Agreement, DNR has the responsibility for developing CCRP practice designs, using the appropriate NRCS Standards, for the practices shown in Table 1, but only if the specific practice will require a tree and/or shrub planting.*

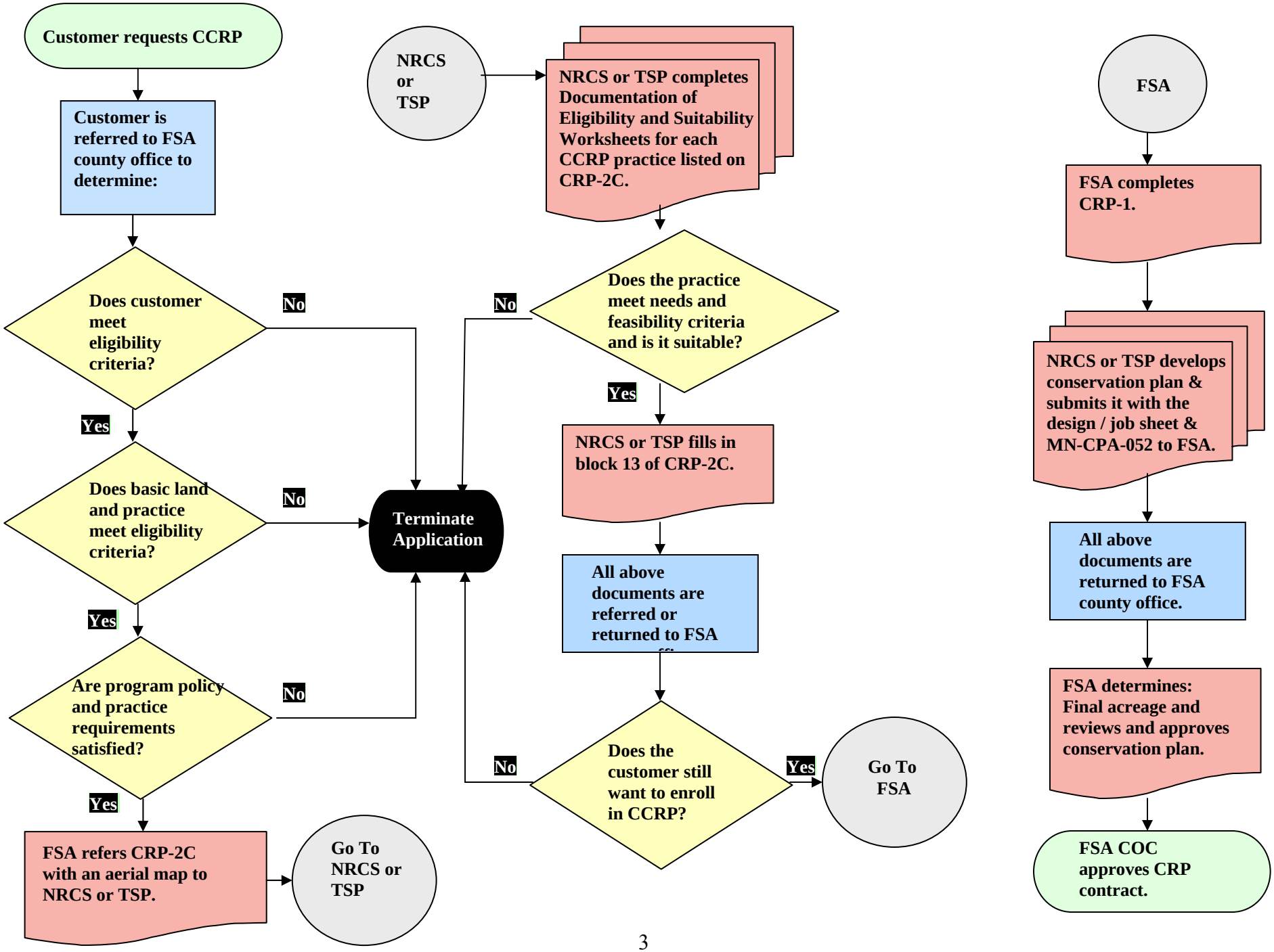
Table 1: Practices Designed by DNR, Division of Forestry

Practice	NRCS Practice Standards	Practice Code
CP22 Riparian Buffer (Live stock exclusion & fencing will be designed by NRCS)	Riparian Forest Buffer Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	391 612 490
CP23 Wetland Restoration	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP28 Farmable Wetlands Buffer	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP30 Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490

***Note:** NRCS has the responsibility for determining the eligibility of the above practices.

After the environmental evaluation, conservation plan, practice design(s) and job sheet(s) are completed **NRCS** makes a copy and submits the originals to **FSA**. **FSA** then determines the final acreage. The conservation plan documentation is reviewed for completeness and accuracy by FSA prior to approval. Refer to Diagram 1 for a flow chart of this process.

Diagram 1 Flow Chart for CCRP Applications



B. Technical Service Providers

Only NRCS can approve the use of a TSP for CRP work products. TSPs can be either conservation partners approved in a Contribution Agreement (these individuals will have NRCS designated Technical Approval Authority, TAA) or a certified private sector individual or business (these TSPs are certified on the TechReg web site). All TSP services are provided independently of oversite from the NRCS and all TSPs assume total liability and responsibility for the work products they produce. Approval for the use of reimbursed TSP services must be obtained prior to beginning any work deliverables. NRCS generally makes TSP services available only after a USDA conservation program contract has been approved.

Technical Service Provider (TSP) (reimbursable assistance)

The requirement to have prior approval for TSP services means that CCRP conservation planning and practice design activities will have very limited opportunity for TSP services. These activities must be completed prior to FSA approval of CCRP contracts. In CCRP reimbursable TSP services will be mainly limited to the "installation" and "check-out" phases of CCRP practice implementation. Producers can request TSP assistance from NRCS by completing a hard copy CCC-1200 contract. Prior to approving TSP services, NRCS must determine the amount of technical assistance funds allowable for each request and approve a separate NRCS contract with the landowner.

Non – TSP Technical Assistance (non-reimbursable assistance)

Conservation partners working with NRCS can work in a non-reimbursable fashion on CCRP which includes all phases of CCRP activities. When this occurs NRCS must review and sign-off on all their work, indicating that it is technically complete and correct (NRCS can do this by delegating "technical approval authority" to specific partners) and NRCS retains the technical responsibility and liability for these work products.

C. CCRP Plan Revisions

NRCS is also responsible for recording conservation plan modifications via a revised CPO (or other approved form) for major changes to the conservation plan in order that FSA may document contract revisions. Revised CPO, with participant's new signature, is required to be sent to FSA for the following situations:

- additions, modifications or deletions of practices,
- substituting practices,
- deleting land,
- scheduling re-locations of a practice,
- extending the CRP-1,
- change of land ownership or
- change in the extent of the practice.

Copies of all CPO revisions will be given to FSA for review and approval.

Acreage changes due to improved technological methods do not require an official plan revision and can be completed via a pen and ink change by NRCS on the CPO. FSA will be responsible to inform the contract holder of these changes.

D. CCRP CONSERVATION PRACTICES:

Refer to the attached pages for policy clarity and documentation requirements for the current list of CCRP conservation practices, excluding Wellhead Protection Area practices and the new CCRP practice CP33 (would only apply to a few areas in far SE MN). WORD files of the eligibility worksheets for each practice can be found on the MN NRCS homepage: http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/. From the home menu click on Programs followed by Conservation Reserve Program then on Eligibility Documents.

If a situation arises where local USDA personnel can not agree on specific CCRP policies, including; contract sign-up procedure, practice eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, practice certifications, and status reviews the NRCS-DC will refer the issue to the NRCS Assistant State Conservationist (FO) and the FSA-CED will refer the issue to the FSA District Director (DD) for discussion and resolution. At their discretion the NRCS ASTC (FO) and/or the FSA District Director may request state office assistance to resolve policy questions. Both agencies need to understand their roles and work together to provide the best possible and most efficient service to interested producers.

Please feel free to provide comments to the NRCS and FSA state offices CRP conservation staffs for suggested improvements to future revisions to this document.

/s/
WILLIAM HUNT
NRCS State Conservationist
NRCS, St. Paul, MN

/s/
JOHN MONSON
FSA State Executive Director
FSA, St. Paul, MN

Table 2: CCRP Practice Codes, Titles & Page Numbers*

CP #	Practice Title	Pg.
5A	Field Windbreak Establishment	7
8A	Grass Waterways	10
9	Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife	14
15A	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)	16
15B	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces	18
16A	Shelterbelt Establishment	20
17A	Living Snow Fences	22
18B/C	Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity / Salt Tolerant Cover	25
21	Filter Strips	28
22	Riparian Buffer	31
23	Wetland Restoration	36
23A	Wetland Restoration , Non-Floodplain	38
24	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover as Cross Wind Trap Strips	40
27/28	Farmable Wetlands (FWP) Program / FWP Buffer	42
29	Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer	49
30	Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer	51
31	Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands	53

* For non-wellhead protection areas only. CP33 will not be addressed in this CRP note.

CCRP Practice

CP5A Field Windbreak Establishment

The purpose of this practice is to establish windbreaks to improve the environmental benefits on a farm or ranch to first reduce cropland erosion below soil loss tolerance and as an added benefit will enhance wildlife habitat.

The maximum allowable practice width will consist of 1 to 3 rows of trees and/or shrubs spaced according to guidance in the Windbreak/Shelterbelt Standard, Code 380. The spacing between rows (row-to-row width) depends on the total number of rows, the species of trees or shrubs to be planted, and the type of weed control to be used. Row spacing may vary and row spacing guidance and spacing maximums are listed in the standard. Multiple field windbreaks in the same field will be spaced according to the contributing erosion factors using WEQ. See Diagram 2 for field windbreak examples.

An additional area up to one rod in width is eligible for enrollment adjacent to the outside row of any windbreak. This area will provide access to maintain the windbreak and allow the tree canopy to develop over the life of the contract.

Field windbreaks must be located, positioned and documented to provide wind erosion control benefits. Eligible fields must be determined to have potential wind erosion that exceeds "T", the tolerable soil loss rate. Potential wind erosion will be calculated using the EI portion in the Critical Period Procedure of the Wind Erosion Equation. WEQ information is located in Section 1 of the FOTG. Wind erosion potential for the CP-5A site will be documented on the CP-5A eligibility sheet.

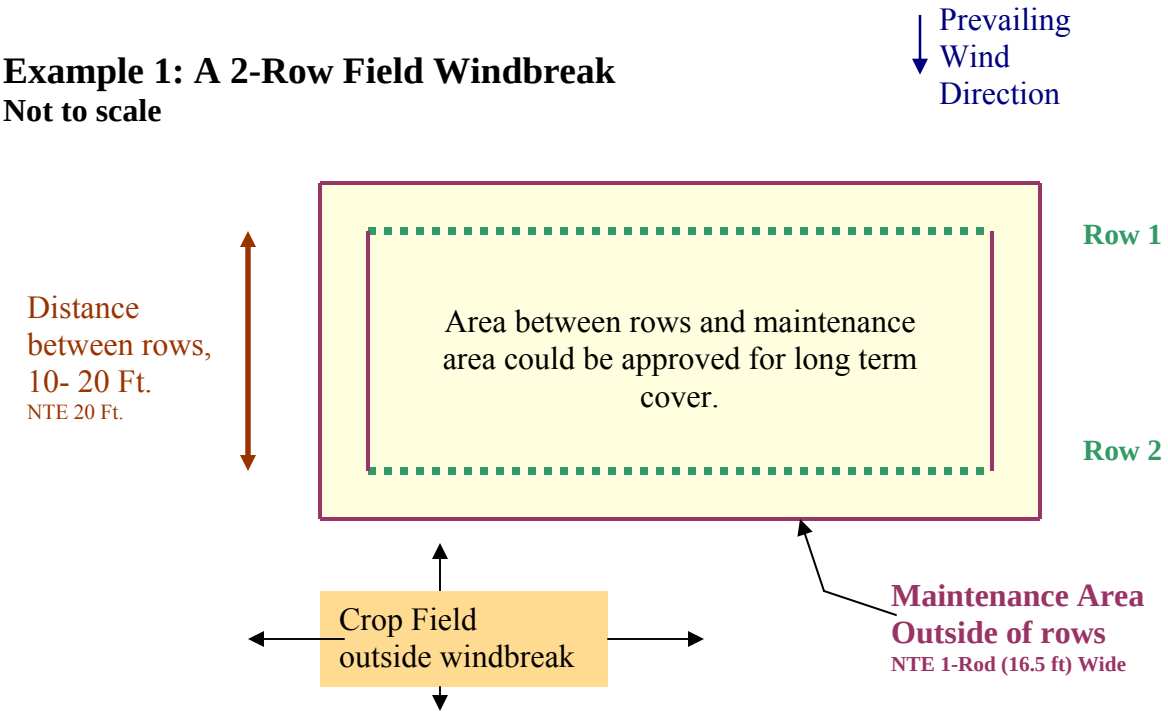
A temporary cover crop, not to exceed 2 years, is allowed if the following circumstances are justified: 1) seedlings are not available; 2) the normal planting period has passed or the practice will not be completed within 12 months from the CRP-1 effective starting date; 3) chemical residues are likely to carry-over in the soil. Longer cover crops may be considered if: 1) steep slopes are present; 2) water or wind erosion is present; or 3) other unique site conditions exist. For all situations where grass cover will be established with the CP-5A practice the table below lists the only approved species that can be used.

Crop	Rate/acre
Small grains (Oats, Wheat, Barley, Rye)	1 ½ to 2 ½ bu.
Perennial rye	8 lbs.
Timothy	2 to 3 lbs.

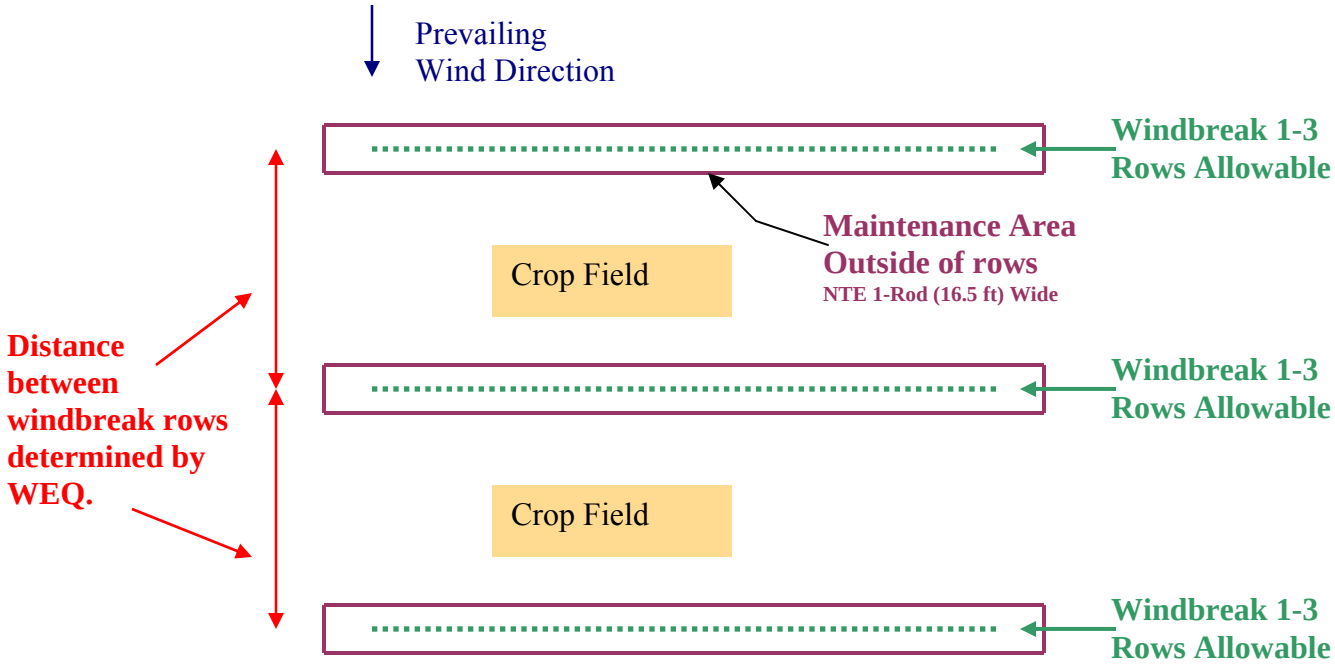
Long term cover crops are only authorized between rows. All grasses and weeds located within the row must be controlled for the life of the contract. If within-row soil erosion control or weed suppression is needed use as appropriate, mulch, fabric, mechanical and/or chemical control methods. Annual mowing of CRP acreage for generic weed control is prohibited after a final status review has been received from NRCS. According to 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Paragraph 442B, cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan.

Diagram 2 Field Windbreaks

Example 1: A 2-Row Field Windbreak
Not to scale



Example 2: A Series of 1-3 Row Field Windbreaks
Not to scale



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Field Windbreaks — **CP5A** Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Wind Erosion**

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Documented potential wind erosion is equal to or greater than T? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Soil Map Unit Symbol* _____ or Soil Map Unit Name* _____

***Use predominant soil of significant extent for planning purposes**

Enter the Soil Loss Tolerance for the Map Unit (T) tons/acre/year _____

Unsheltered Distance across field (L) _____ (Ft) **(Measured in the prevailing wind direction)**

C Factor for County _____ I Factor for Soil Map Unit _____

Potential Soil Loss** _____ tons/acre/year (A) **(from the Critical Period Procedure of the Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ))**

****(A = C*I*L)**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *Documented potential wind erosion is less than T.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

(Use the Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups from Section I of the FOTG to determine tree or shrub suitability for the offered acres)

Notes:

_____

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice

Extent of Windbreak (# of rows, check one, and width)

☐ One: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 33 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Two: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 53 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Three: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 73 ft. including maintenance area*)

***One rod width (16.5 ft) may be enrolled along the outside row(s) of the windbreak for maintenance access and canopy development.**

CCRP Practice

CP8A Grassed Waterways

The purpose of this practice is to convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding and to improve water quality. The program may enroll up to twice the waterway design width not to exceed 100 feet. The CRP waterway practice can include an area of marginal pastureland, not to exceed 10% of the total length, and only for the purpose of stabilizing the outlet, see Diagram 4. NRCS Practice Standard Grassed Waterway, Code 412 will be used to design this practice.

NOTE: The 10% area is **not** part of the CRP-1 contract. However, it is part of the conservation plan and **is eligible** for CRP cost-share.

Sites with existing vegetation or existing non-functioning waterways could be entirely eligible if all of the following apply

1. FSA determines the area is cropland and meets CRP crop history requirements and ;
2. NRCS determines that the existing vegetation is **not** adequately serving the purpose of the practice and;
3. The area is **not** under a practice lifespan from any cost share program.

If all the above do not apply some sites could be partially eligible. Those areas determined by FSA to be non-cropland are not eligible for enrollment. However, eligible cropland areas immediately adjacent to these areas can be enrolled. The waterway can be constructed and FSA will pay a prorated cost share based on the percentage of the area determined to be eligible.

The site review for the CP8A practice will always include an Environmental Evaluation and written documentation (NRCS-CPA-052) as to whether the offered site will adversely affect wetlands. Wetlands can occur on slopes, such as a waterway site. Usually sloping sites will not meet the wetland hydrology criteria associated with flooding or ponding but could be considered a non-depressional, saturated wetland.

For saturated non-depressional sites:
If the site is a Wetland (W) that is:

- Within a HEL field, the waterway practice can be installed for erosion control and no minimal effect agreement is required.
- Within an NHEL field, the waterway can be installed for erosion control only if a minimal effect agreement is obtained.

If the offered site is Prior Converted Cropland (PC) that was manipulated and cropped prior to 12/23/85, any additional manipulation will not be a violation of the Food Security Act. Manipulation may require a CWA-404 abandonment review.

If the offered site is a Farmed Wetland Pasture (FWP) where the adjacent land is pasture or hayland and the site has been manipulated follow the guidance listed above for wetlands.

NOTE: All wetland minimal effect exemptions and/or agreements may not qualify for exemptions to the Clean Water Act administered by CoE or MN Wetland Conservation Act administered by BWSR. Producers should be advised they may need to request approval from these agencies prior to manipulating wetlands.

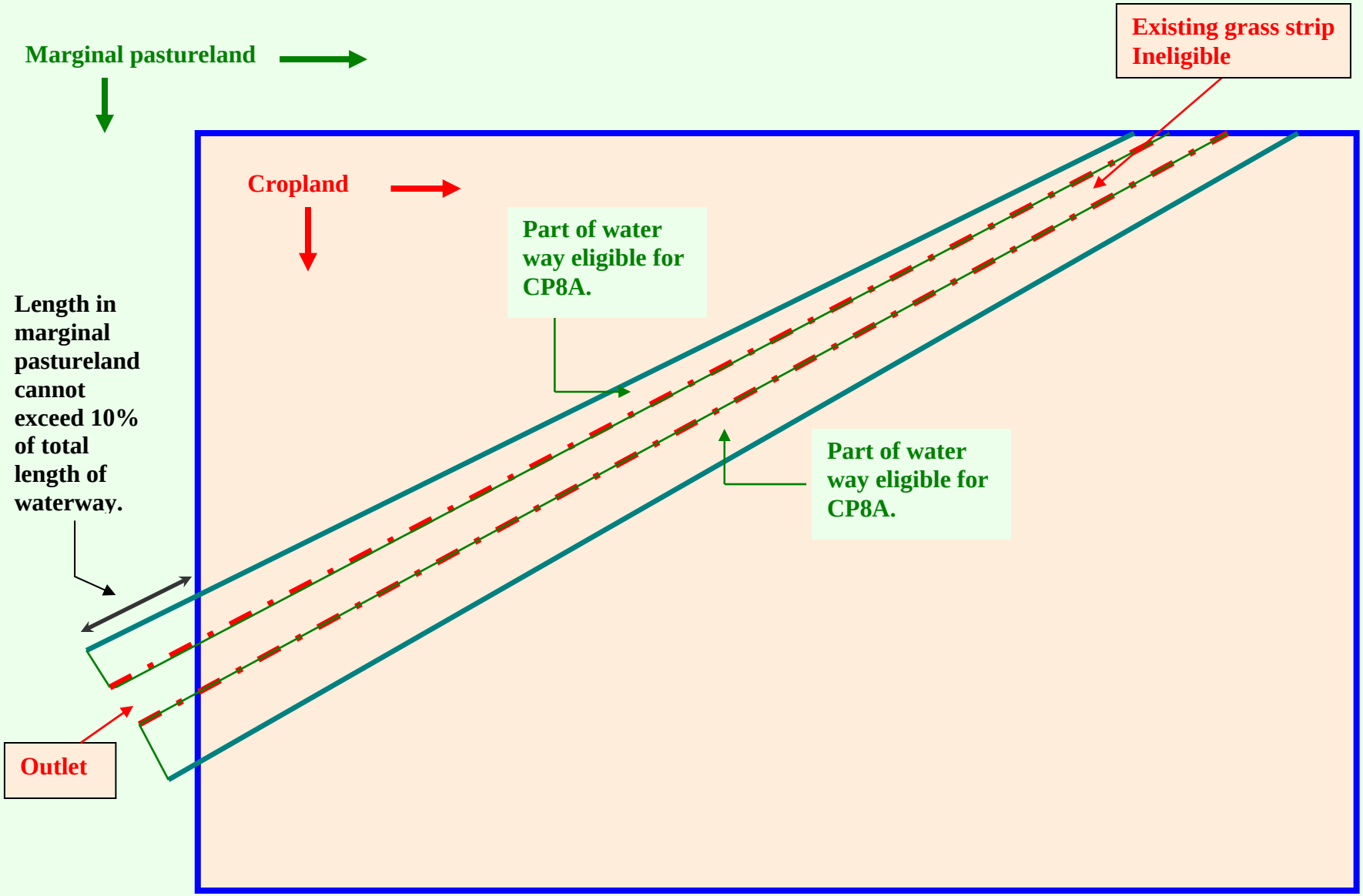
Subsurface Drains
Subsurface drains, NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Subsurface Drain, Code 606, can be established as part of this practice only to create an adequate seedbed for vegetation establishment or to allow equipment to pass without damaging the waterways. Cost share for tile size is limited to the design required for the waterway and will not consider additional upslope subsurface drainage or surface intakes.

Outlet Structures
Outlet structures such as tile outlets, grade stabilization structures, aluminum toewall structures, rock chutes and pipe drop structures can be a component of this practice and cost shared. NRCS Conservation Standards Grade Stabilization Structure, Code 410; and Water and Sediment Control Basins, Code 638; Critical Area Planting, Code 342, and Mulching, Code 472 can be used for this practice.

Diagram 3

Grassed Waterway Eligible Areas

(Not to scale)



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Grass Waterways — **CP8A** Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility**
Water Erosion
FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____ **Water Quality**

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Document that a classic gully or ephemeral erosion exists on the offered acres.
_____

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Concentrated flow does not exist on the offered acres.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Is there an adequate outlet in the offered acres? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Upland watershed area is adequately treated according to policy?
☐ Yes ☐ No*

Notes:
_____

☐ *The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

_____ Ft. Wide*

***Up to two (2) times the minimum design standard, not to exceed 100 ft. wide.**

_____ Ft. Long**

****** No more than 10% of the length may be applied on marginal pastureland only for the purpose of stabilizing the outlet.**

Total practice area: _____ Acres

CCRP Practice

CP9 Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife

The purpose of this practice is to provide water for wildlife for the majority of the year. The practice must establish a shallow water area with an average depth of 6 – 18 inches for a minimum of 6 months of the year for all years. NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657 will be used for designing this practice.

This practice is not to be used for the purpose of a pond development. Current policy does not allow implementation of this practice by excavating within any wetland (including farmed wetlands or wetlands cropped under natural conditions). Use practices CP23, CP23A or CP27 if the purpose is to restore wetland functions and values.

The practice may be offered only once per tract, only one (1) CRP-1 is allowed and the contract acres may not exceed 10 acres in size including the buffer acres. A perennial vegetative buffer is required with this practice as per the following policy:

- The width of the buffer shall not be less than 20 feet or exceed an average maximum of 120 feet wide.
- The buffer area and the shallow water area shall not exceed 10 acres per tract.
- The upland buffer area will be seeded to a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of 3 at least grasses, and 1 forb.

When this practice is established field staff will document that excavation did not occur and that fill was not placed within a wetland.

All seeding recommendations need to meet the NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645. This practice may include complementary NRCS Practice Standards such as Critical Area Planting, Code 342; Mulching, Code 484; Subsurface Drain, Code 606; and Grade Stabilization Structure, Code 410.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife — **CP9** Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Source for Wildlife

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acre(s) is (are) in a non-wetland area*? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

***Existing functional wetlands do not qualify for this practice.**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The offered acres already function as a wetland.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Offered acres can provide a source of water for the majority of the year in all years?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

An area at least 20 feet wide is available for an adequate vegetative buffer?

☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

_____

Unsuitable Site:

☐ *The offered acres do not provide a source of water.

☐ **The offered acres do not provide an adequate buffer.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of shallow water area _____ acres

Buffer Width*: _____ ft.

***The buffer width will not exceed an average maximum width of 120 ft.**

CCRP Practice

CP15A Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)

The purpose of this practice is to establish strips of permanent vegetative cover generally following the contour on eligible cropland alternated with wider cultivated strips farmed on the contour that will reduce erosion and control runoff.

The buffer strips must be established for erosion control and **must** be alternated with wider cultivated strips of non-CRP cropland for eligibility. Contour buffer strips are not eligible to be installed on terraces within this practice. The buffer strips must be established for soil erosion and runoff control purposes. Eligible fields must have potential sheet and rill soil erosion documented as being above T using *RUSLE2*. Potential sheet and rill erosion will be determined using the proposed;

1) crop rotation,
2) seedbed preparation field operations and
3) residue management activities.

Print-outs from RUSLE2 calculations can serve as soil loss documentation.

Field borders may be included in the offered acres if NRCS documents the need in writing that the field border is necessary to drain water and insure the functionality of the contour buffer system. The field border maximum width is 15 feet.

The lowest contour buffer strip in a field may be up to 2 times the minimum width recommended for the practice. The acceptable width is determined as follows:

- Designed for soil erosion purposes is 15 feet,
- Seeded to grass or a grass/legume mixture is 15 feet,
- Seeded to legumes only is 30 feet (reseeding at the producers expense may be required).

NRCS Practice Standard Contour Buffer Strips, Code 332 will be used to design this practice.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)

CP15A

Version 2/05

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Erosion
Control Runoff

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Documented sheet and rill soil erosion (A) is greater than T? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Soil Map Unit Symbol* or Soil Map Unit Name

***Use predominant soil of significant extent for planning purposes. Document here or include RUSLE2 calculation sheet.**

Enter the Soil Loss Tolerance of Map Unit (T) tons/acre/year

Rainfall Factor for County (R) Soil Erodibility Factor for Soil Map Unit (K)

Slope Factor for Field (LS)

Soil Loss** tons/acre/year (A)

**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *Documented sheet and rill soil erosion (A) is less than or equal to T.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes* ☐ No*

Notes:

(Must document need for field borders as an integral part of the contour buffer system.)

☐ *The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

Buffer Strip Width Ft. (Must be at least 15 ft., not to exceed 30 ft.*)

*** If seeded to legumes only, the minimum width is 30 ft.**

Lowest Buffer Strip Width Ft. **(May be up to 2 times the minimum width recommended)**

Row Crop Width Ft. **(Must be greater than the buffer strip width)**

Field Border Width Ft. **(Must be less than or equal to 15 feet)**

CCRP Practice

CP15B Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces

The purpose of the practice is to establish vegetative cover on terraces to enhance water quality and reduce soil erosion in terraced fields. The acreage offered must meet cropping history requirements and must not be under another program lifespan or agreement to maintain the terrace system.

This practice applies only to properly functioning terraces, not currently planted to a vegetative cover, that are beyond the practice lifespan and ensures that the long-term functions of the terrace are maintained.

A buffer may be included in the offered acres not to exceed 10 feet on the upslope (channel) and/or downslope (backslope) portions of the terrace. The maximum width including the buffer areas must not exceed 60 feet.

The terrace must be properly functioning for practice eligibility and must not be under a practice lifespan or other agreement to maintain the terrace system.

The NRCS Practice Standard Contour Buffer Strips, Code 332 will be used for designing this practice.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover On Terraces (Contour Grass Strips) **CP15B**

Version 2/05

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Quality
Water Erosion

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Existing terraces are not currently under a practice lifespan or other maintenance agreement? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Ineligible Practice:

☐ * Terraces are currently under the practice lifespan or maintenance agreement.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Is the terrace system properly functioning ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:
(Seeding is needed and feasible.)

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

Backslope Toe or End of Fill Buffer Ft Wide. (Not to exceed 10 feet wide.)

Upslope Channel or Cutslope Buffer Ft. Wide (Not to exceed 10 feet wide.)

Total Width of Practice Ft. Wide **(Maximum of 40 feet* unless buffers are less than 10 feet.)**

*** The maximum width of the practice, including the buffer areas, must not exceed 60 feet.**

CCRP Practice

CP16A Shelterbelt Establishment

The purpose of this practice is to protect farmstead or livestock areas from blowing winds and to save energy. The maximum allowable practice width will consist of 3 to 8 rows of trees and/or shrubs spaced according to guidance in the NRCS Practice Standard Windbreak/Shelterbelt, Code 380. The spacing between rows (row-to-row width) depends on the total number of rows, the species of trees or shrubs to be planted, and the type of weed control to be used. Row spacing guidance and spacing maximums are listed in the standard. Row spacing may wary within a planting and all rows don't have to be spaced at the maximum width.

An additional area up to one rod in width (16.5 ft.) is eligible for enrollment adjacent to the outside row of any shelterbelt. This area will provide access to maintain the shelterbelt and allow the tree canopy to develop over the life of the contract.

Cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan.

Shelterbelts must be located, positioned and documented to provide protection to **existing** farmsteads, livestock areas or other structures. Proposed buildings and feedlot areas are **not** eligible for this practice.

Refer to CP5A for information about temporary cover crops.

Eligible applicants must be individuals or entities that are considered to be "actively engaged in farming". Contact FSA to determine if prospective participants meet this requirement.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Shelterbelt Establishment CP16A

Version 2/05

APPLICANT: COUNTY: **Resource Concerns for Eligibility**
Protection from Wind

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.: **Save Energy**

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Check area to be protected* ☐ Farmstead ☐ Feedlot

*must be existing structures

☐ Livestock barn ☐ Other (explain in Notes)

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Protected areas are pasture, fallow, or non-farmland

☐ Protected areas are proposed structures and do not currently exist.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice*? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

(Use CTSG for tree species in the FOTG, Section I to determine tree or shrub suitability for the offered acres)

Notes:

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice

Extent of Shelterbelt (# of rows, check one, and width)

☐ Three: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 73 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Four: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 93 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Five: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 113 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Six: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 133 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Seven: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 153 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Eight: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 173 ft. including maintenance area*)

***One rod width (16.5 ft) may be enrolled along the outside row(s) of the windbreak for maintenance access and canopy development.**

☐ Total Shelterbelt Area **Acres.**

CCRP Practice

CP17A Living Snow Fences

The purpose of this practice is to establish living snow fences on a farm or ranch to manage snow, provide living screens and enhance wildlife habitat. This practice applies to eligible cropland to protect against drifting snow on lanes, roads, railroads and public facilities.

The maximum allowable practice width will consist of 2 to 3 rows of trees and/or shrubs spaced according to guidance in the NRCS Practice Code 380, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Standard. The spacing between rows (row-to-row width) depends on the total number of rows, the species of trees or shrubs to be planted, and the type of weed control to be used. Row spacing guidance and spacing maximums are listed in the standard. Row spacing may vary within a planting and all rows don't have to be spaced at the maximum width.

The eligible area includes the two snow catch areas (windward and leeward). The leeward (downwind) snow catch area is the distance between the road right-of-way and the first leeward row of trees/shrubs (set-back distance) multiplied by the length of the living snow fence. The set-back distance will be calculated by using the Living Snow Fence Design Program from the following web site http://climate.umn.edu/snow_fence/Components/Design/introduction.htm. The maximum windward snow catch area is the length of the living snow fence multiplied by 66 ft (4 rods widths measured perpendicular from the first windward row of trees). The 66 ft. is the maximum length for this distance. A shorter distance can be used, however snow depth increases dramatically nearer to the snow fence.

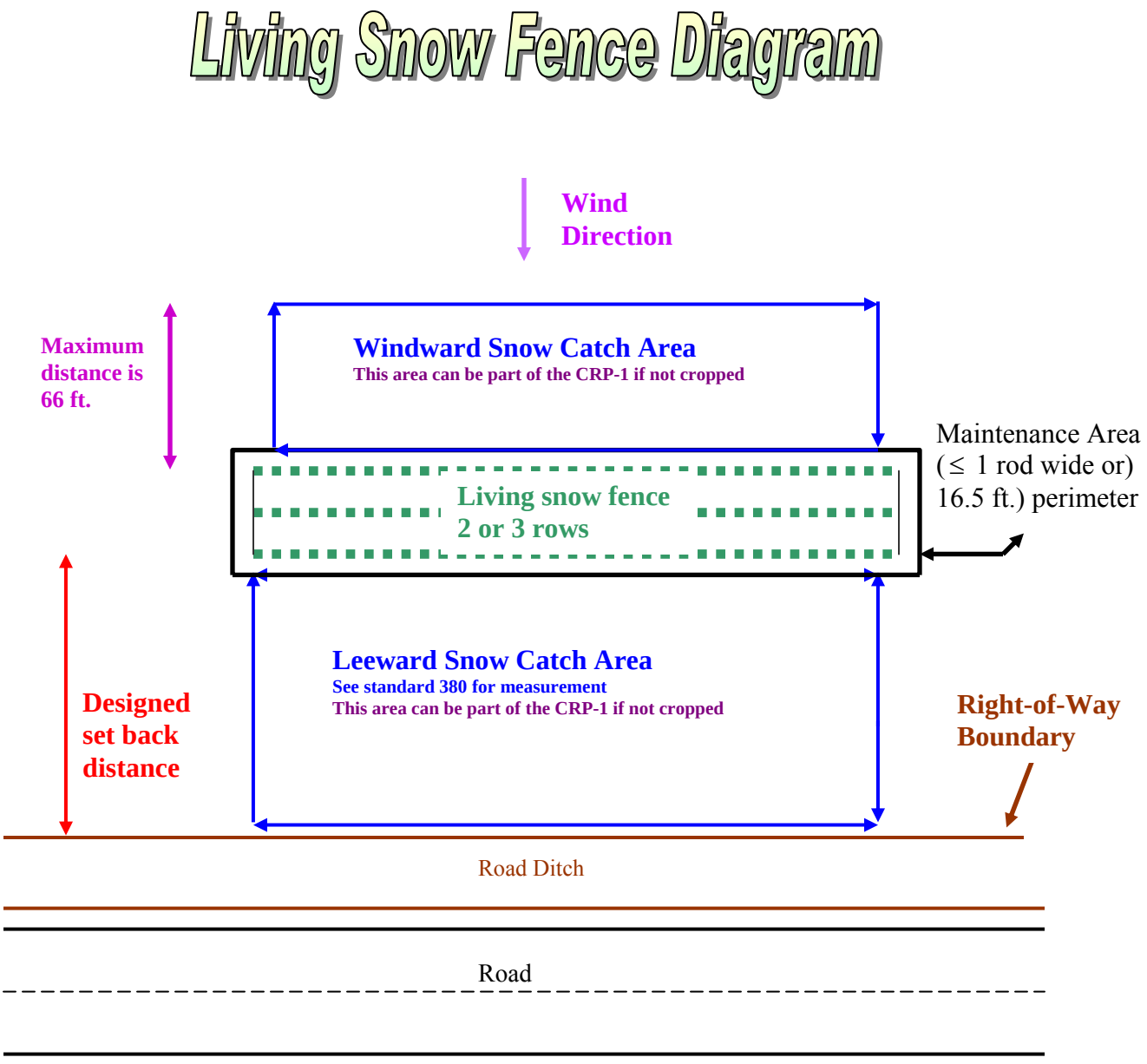
If the snow catch areas are not enrolled the applicant may choose to enroll an area up to one rod in width (16.5 ft.) adjacent to the outside rows of the living snow fence as a maintenance area. This area will provide access to maintain the snow-fence and allow the tree canopy to develop over the life of the contract. When the snow catch areas are enrolled they also serve as a maintenance area and additional land is not eligible. Refer to Diagram 3 for an example of a living snow fence.

The snow catch area(s) will be part of the CRP-1 if taken out of production. The seeding requirements are a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses, and 1 forb. Refer to the Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Standard, Code 645 for seeding standards. Haying and grazing are not allowed. If the applicant plans to crop or hay the snow catch area it is ineligible for enrollment in CRP.

Cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan.

Refer to CP5A for information about temporary cover crops.

Diagram 4: **Living Snow Fence**
(Not to Scale)



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Living Snow Fences — **CP17A** Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Snow Management**

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Check area to be protected ☐ Lanes ☐ Roads ☐ Railroads ☐ Public Facilities

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Protected area is not one of the above

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice*? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

(Use the CTSG found in the eFOTG, Section I to determine tree or shrub suitability for the offered acres)

Notes:

_____

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice

Extent of Living Snow Fence (# of rows, check one, and width)

☐ Two: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 53 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Three: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 73 ft. including maintenance area*)

***One rod width (16.5 ft) may be enrolled around the perimeter of the living snow fence for maintenance, access and canopy development.**

Designed Minimum Setback** _____ ft. Wide

****Minimum designed setback is measured from the edge of the road right-of way (windward side of ditch) to the first row of the living snow fence (leeward side). The set back is based on snow transport, fence porosity and attack angle of wind from the U of M Living Snow Fence Design Module found at the following website:**
http://climate.umn.edu/snow_fence/Components/Design/introduction.htm

A) Maximum Leeward Snow Catch Area =
Designed Minimum Setback distance (ft.) x length of living snow fence (ft.): _____ ft^2

B) Maximum Windward Snow Catch Area =
66 ft. x length of living snow fence (ft.): _____ ft^2

Designed Total Eligible Snow Catch Area = A x B _____ ft^2

CCRP Practice

CP18B Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
CP18C Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover

Eligibility Criteria for CP18B:

The purpose of this practice is to establish permanent salt tolerant vegetative cover on eligible cropland that will improve the environmental benefits of a farm or ranch. This practice is limited to sites detrimentally affected by **areas identified as saline seeps**.*.

Eligibility Criteria for CP18C:

The purpose of this practice is to establish permanent salt tolerant vegetative cover, including trees or shrubs, on eligible cropland that will improve the environmental benefits of a farm or ranch. This practice is limited to areas where a **high water table** is causing a saline condition in the soil*.

* This practice does not apply to irrigation induced saline conditions.

Criteria For 18B

Any areas where the county soil survey indicates a saline seep has been mapped.

Criteria For 18C

The acreage enrolled as CP-18C will be limited to those soils with a high salinity content due to a high water table and an electrical conductivity (EC) of at least 8 mmhos/cm. When these conditions exist the presence of a saline seep is not a requirement for eligibility.

Definition of saline areas CP18C:

Areas are considered *saline* where the county soil survey indicates soils which have been mapped as either 1) saline soils or 2) a saline phase. For both of these cases the producer must have a current (within the last 3 years) soil test to show that each eligible area has an electrical conductivity (EC) of at least 8 mmhos/cm. An on-site verification is not needed if these criteria are met.

Saline inclusions within non-saline soil map units when the area is determined to have an EC of 8 mmhos/cm or greater.

1. These are generally small areas and may be designated by a soil spot symbol. If a soil spot symbol exists and the criteria listed above are met, the area is eligible without on-site verification.
2. When a soil spot symbol does not exist, each individual area is required to have an on-site verification by a soil scientist to determine if the criteria are met and the extent of the area that is eligible for this practice.

For 18B and 18C there is a limit on enrollment to no more than 50 acres. NRCS Practice Standard 327 will be used to design these practices.

Recommended Saline Soil Seed Mixture:

Species	PLS Rate (lbs/ac)
Tall Wheatgrass	6
Western Wheatgrass	4
Canada Wildrye or Slender Wheatgrass	1
Switchgrass	0.5

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity — **CP18B** — Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Control Saline Seeps

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Discharge area meets the characteristics of a saline seep and is identified on a soil survey?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

Extent of area adversely affected by saline seep _____ Acres

☐ *The area does not meet the characteristics of a saline seep.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

_____

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

_____ Acres (saline affected)

_____ Acres (additional needed to control saline problem)

_____ Acres Total (must be no more than 50)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover — **CP18C** — Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility**
Control Saline Water Table

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Have soils been determined to have high salinity levels due to an elevated water table (as documented by a soil scientist)? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

AND

Does the soil survey indicated that the soil map units are either saline soils or w/ a saline phase? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

OR

Has a current soil test shown that these areas have an EC > 8? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

OR

Have saline inclusions within non saline soil map units been determined by a soil scientist to have an EC>=8? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The site is ineligible for the practice.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

_____

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

_____ Acres total eligible (Maximum is 50 acres per tract) (include map from soil scientist indicating salinity test results)

CCRP Practice

CP21 Filter Strips

The purpose of this practice is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystems of the water body.

Cost share for vegetation establishment is limited to 2 options; either a 1 - 3 species mix or a four (4) or more species mix.

Use the NRCS Practice Standard Filter Strip, Code 393 to design this practice.

Note: Refer to Table 3, in Appendix B, for wetland restrictions on this practice.

The filter strip begins at the top of the stream bank. Some land adjacent to the stream may not meet the eligibility criteria and will not be enrolled in the CCRP; however, this ineligible land shall be included:

- In the area used as a filter strip.
- In the conservation plan
- When determining the width of the filter strip.

Additional Guidance for Watering Facilities
This practice allows for cost sharing the establishment of alternative watering facilities and fencing only when livestock are present on the site and the enrollment into CCRP removes the source of livestock water. Fences will be established according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fencing Code 382. There are 2 options for alternative water sources; 1. water facilities such as troughs and tanks, and 2. water developments for example dug, bored or drilled wells or springs or ponds. The choice of alternative water source will be the **lowest cost option** suitable for the situation. Alternative water sources will be designed according to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Watering Facilities Code 614. All landowners receiving cost share assistance on watering facilities will be encouraged to develop a separate prescribed grazing plan on their grazeable non-CRP acres.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Filter Strip

CP21
Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Quality

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

I. LOCATION CRITERIA (Indicate the type of area being protected)

- ☐ **A.** Perennial Stream
- ☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:
  - ☐ USGS maps
  - ☐ county soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
  - ☐ on-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped
- ☐ **C.** Wetland determined to be Cowardin classification of select one
- ☐ **D.** Sinkhole
- ☐ **E.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years
- ☐ **F.** Drainage Ditch (must meet perennial or seasonal stream criteria)

II. CROPLAND CRITERIA (Indicate type of FSA defined cropland to be converted to filter strip)

Check all that apply

- ☐ annual crop (corn, soybeans, wheat, etc.)
- ☐ perennial vegetation (such as alfalfa and other legumes)
- ☐ expired CRP

III. SITE SUITABILITY

☐ > 50% of field runoff occurs or will occur as uniform sheet flow after installation of flow spreading practices. Indicate practices to be used to convert concentrated flow areas to sheet flow:

☐ shaping and grading ☐ flow diversion ☐ level spreaders
☐ vegetative barriers ☐ contour buffers ☐ contour furrows ☐ other

☐ **Unsuitable Site Conditions**

Check appropriate reasons below

☐ < 50% of field runoff occurs as uniform sheet flow and no measures are planned to induce sheet flow.

☐ > 50% of field runoff bypasses proposed filter strip because of surface intakes and associated tile.

☐ inability to support acceptable vegetation.

☐ upland sheet and rill soil losses >10 tons/ac./yr.

☐ upland sheet and rill soil losses > 3 tons/ac./yr. and contributing watershed will be ≥ 60 times the area of the filter strip.

☐ contributing watershed slope ≥ 10% ☐ channel bank stability

STOP!!!! Unsuitable site

IV. PRACTICE WIDTH

Select widths according to Minnesota NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 393 **and** as follows: CRP eligible widths range from 30 feet to 120 feet and an additional width can be added not to exceed 350 total feet only if the purpose is for water quality and the need is documented. Reasons for additional width are shown below under A and B. B is only used to **1.)** insure that a 30-foot width of unflooded viable filter

strip remains above the ordinary high water mark (2-year flooding frequency) on frequently flooded soils **2.)** encompass surface intakes located within 350 feet upslope from the area to be protected if the intakes result in runoff bypassing the proposed filter strip (at least a 30 foot width of viable filter must remain above the elevation of ponded water surrounding the inlet); and **3.)** to include cropland berms between the filter strip and area being protected if "Infeasible-to-farm provisions" cannot be used to do this. **Check appropriate boxes below.** For example check both the filter strip slope and pathogen control boxes for a recommended 240 foot width.

A. Width needed for filtering is:

☐ Width between 30 and 120 feet: **Recommended width**: ___ ft.

or

☐ Width between 120 and 240 feet: **Recommended width**: ___ ft.

Check appropriate reason(s) below

☐ filter strip slope ☐ soluble contaminant control ☐ pathogen control

☐ upland soil losses 8-10 tons/ac./yr.

☐ ratio of contributing watershed area to filter strip area between 31:1 and 60:1

B. Additional needed width is: ___

Check appropriate reason(s) below

☐ frequently flooded soils:

Show location and extent of "frequently flooded" soils on photo, map or sketch. Normal duration, season, and frequency of flooding: ___

☐ surface inlets/tile Intakes

Show location of inlets and estimated extent of temporary water ponding around inlets on photo map or sketch.

☐ berms

Berms are ridges of spoil created when a ditch is dug and can be cropped. Berms prevent overland flow from entering the ditch. If a filter strip is installed, cropping is no longer practical. Show location of berms and estimated width in feet.

C. Total Width

IV A width ___ **+ IV B** width ___ = **Total width** ___ **ft. !!!**

V. ARE AREAS PRESENT THAT MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT? YES

Check appropriate reason(s) below if yes.

☐ Non-cropland acres between cropland acres and area to be protected provide effective filtering

☐ Part or all of offered cropland acres currently provide effective filtering

Effective filtering vegetation in non-cropland and cropland acres must: be included in the area used as a filter strip and be in the conservation plan. Acreage of this vegetation may be deducted by FSA from overall filter strip acreage to determine acreage eligible for CRP payments.

VI. REMARKS

1. For CRP the starting point for measuring minimum filter strip widths begins immediately adjacent to the feature to be protected. Specifically, filter strip installation in fields not adjacent to a sensitive feature is not addressed by CRP. Consult Conservation practice Standard 393, Filter Strip, dtd. Dec. 2002 for additional detail on starting points.
2. Land with a restrictive easement or covered by a state or local law that requires the establishment of vegetation may not be eligible for CRP.

CCRP Practice

CP22 Riparian Buffer

The purposes of this practice are to: remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystems of the water body; create shade to lower water temperature to improve habitat for aquatic organisms; provide a source of detritus and large woody debris for aquatic organisms and habitat for wildlife.

Use the NRCS Practice Standard Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391 to design this practice. The suitability worksheet is a guide through the eligibility of location, practice and site suitability and will help with design also.
Note: Refer to Table 3, in Appendix B for wetland restrictions for this practice.

The riparian buffer begins at the top of the stream bank. Some land adjacent to the stream may not meet the eligibility criteria and will not be enrolled in the CCRP; however, this ineligible land shall be included:

- In the area used as a riparian buffer.
- In the conservation plan
- When determining the width of the riparian buffer.

Natural regeneration of the riparian buffer is acceptable if NRCS or TSP documents that:

- An adequate seed source for trees and shrubs is present.
- Under normal conditions, the appropriate cover will be established within 2 years of CRP-1 effective date.
- Erosion and runoff will be controlled during the establishment period.
- Weeds, noxious plants, and other unapproved plant species will be controlled during the establishment period.
- **No cost share** is paid for natural regeneration and the producer will plant approved cover, without cost share, if the riparian buffer is not established within 2 years of CRP-1 effective date.

In areas of equal to or less than an annual precipitation of 25 inches or less supplemental drip irrigation is authorized. FSA removed plastic mulch as an eligible cost-share component for the entire state.

Note: Marginal pastureland not suitable for tree planting may be eligible for enrollment in CP29.

See next page for additional guidance for marginal pastureland sites and watering facilities.

Additional Guidance for Marginal Pastureland Sites
Marginal pastureland sites must have or be capable of supporting forage suitable for grazing livestock. These sites are not required to be actively grazed, and the producer is not required to have livestock or fencing present to be eligible. If the site has existing woody vegetation in the offered area **NRCS** will also make determinations that 1) the area is not currently in a forestland condition and; 2) whether the vegetation is adequately serving the purpose of the practice. Most forestland areas in MN have both an overstory of older mature trees and an understory of tree saplings, seedlings, and shrubs. Areas with an existing overstory of woody species but without the corresponding understory could be determined to be an adequate riparian buffer which could be renovated to meet NRCS practice requirements.

Additional Guidance for Watering Facilities
This practice allows for cost sharing the establishment of alternative watering facilities and fencing only when livestock are present on the site and the enrollment into CCRP removes the source of livestock water. Fences will be established according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fencing Code 382. There are 2 options for alternative water sources; 1. water facilities such as troughs and tanks, and 2. water developments for example dug, bored or drilled wells or springs or ponds. The choice of alternative water source will be the **lowest cost option** suitable for the situation. Alternative water sources will be designed according to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Watering Facilities Code 614. All landowners receiving cost share assistance on watering facilities will be encouraged to develop a separate prescribed grazing plan on their grazeable non-CRP acres.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Riparian Buffer

CP22
Version 2/05

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Quality
Wildlife Habitat

I. LAND CRITERIA (Indicate type of FSA defined land to be converted to riparian buffer)

☐ Cropland

☐ Marginal pastureland

II. LOCATION CRITERIA – Cropland (Indicate the type of area being protected)

☐ **A.** Perennial Stream

☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:

- ☐ 1. USGS maps
- ☐ 2. County soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
- ☐ 3. On-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped

☐ **C.** Wetland determined to be Cowardin classification of select one

☐ **D.** Sinkholes

☐ **E.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years (i.e. lakes, ponds, etc.)

III. LOCATION CRITERIA – Marginal pastureland (Indicate the type of area being protected)

☐ **A.** Perennial Stream

☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:

- ☐ 1. USGS maps
- ☐ 2. County soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
- ☐ 3. On-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped

☐ **C.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years (i.e. lakes, ponds, etc.) and which has seasonal flow off the farm.

IV. SITE SUITABILITY

☐ > 50% of field runoff occurs or will occur as uniform sheet flow after installation of flow spreading practices. Indicate practices to be used to convert concentrated flow areas to sheet flow:

☐ shaping and grading ☐ flow diversion ☐ level spreaders

☐ vegetative barriers ☐ contour buffers ☐ contour furrows ☐ other

☐ **UNSUITABLE CONDITIONS**
Check appropriate reasons below

☐ < 50% of field runoff occurs as uniform sheet flow and no measures are planned to induce sheet flow

☐ > 50% of field runoff bypasses proposed buffer because of surface intakes and associated tile

☐ site is unsuitable for trees and or shrubs

☐ upland sheet and rill soil losses >10 tons/ac./yr.

☐ channel bank is instable and will erode the buffer

☐ **UNSUITABLE ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS**
Check appropriate reasons below

☐ Acreage offered, whether cropland or marginal pastureland, is permanently underwater.

☐ Adjacent water body to cropland or marginal pastureland does not provide a permanent water cover throughout the year in all years.

☐ Trees are already established on marginal pastureland and functioning as a riparian buffer.

☐ Trees are already established on marginal pastureland the area is not functioning as a riparian buffer because livestock is present but removing the livestock would solve the problem.

☐ Marginal pastureland is not eligible for infeasible to farm criteria.

☐ Land is not suitable for tree planting as determined by NRCS or TSP.

☐ Land is considered a native remnant prairie and is unsuitable for tree planting.

V. ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- The maximum average width of a riparian buffer shall not exceed 180 ft. unless a documented water quality reason exists; if additional width is justified the absolute maximum is 350. **Attach documentation for widths greater than 180 ft.**

Recommended width: ____ ft.

A. Additional needed width is:

Check appropriate reason(s) below

☐ frequently flooded soils:

Show location and extent of "frequently flooded" soils on photo, map or sketch.

Normal duration, season, and frequency of flooding:

☐ surface inlets/tile Intakes

Show location of inlets and estimated extent of temporary water ponding around inlets on photo map or sketch.

☐ berms

Berms are ridges of spoil created when a ditch is dug and can be cropped. Berms prevent overland flow from entering the ditch. If a filter strip is installed, cropping is no longer practical. Show location of berms and estimated width in feet.

VI. NATURAL REGENERATION

☐ **Check here if natural regeneration will be used to establish the riparian buffer**

REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURAL REGENERATION

☐ An adequate seed source of approved tree, shrub and grass species is present on site.

☐ It is determined that under normal conditions the appropriate cover will be established within 2 years of CRP-1 effective date.

☐ **Producer notified that cost share is not authorized for natural regeneration**

VII. REMARKS

Notes:

CCRP Practice

CP23 Wetland Restoration

The purpose of the practice is to restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that are entirely within the 100-year floodplain. Eligible sites are limited to only those wetland areas that have had the wetland hydrology component removed through alteration by drainage and/or manipulation and where it is feasible and practical to restore the wetland. If any of the hydrologic components of the wetland cannot be restored through removing, blocking, manipulating , rendering inoperable the wetland drainage system and/or manipulation the wetland area is not eligible for enrollment. Cropping cessation and the subsequent establishment of vegetation on a wetland area in itself is not considered an eligible restoration option.

All restorable wetland areas must meet USDA wetland criteria. This means that it, 1) contains hydric soils, 2) meets wetland hydrology criteria (when restored), and 3) has or will have after restoration, hydrophytic vegetation. The goal of this practice is to restore the wetland ecosystem to the maximum extent possible. Initial wetland restoration feasibility assessments must be completed by a qualified individual and must consider avoiding impacts to adjacent properties, utilities, or other infrastructures unless approvals, permits or consents are attainable. This assessment must include an evaluation of the depth, width and extent of the existing drainage system and its impact on the site's hydric soils. Floodplain restorations must be evaluated to insure that the flood storage area is not reduced or adversely impacted through the placement of fill, dikes, levees, or embankments. It is important to document the baseline hydrologic conditions **prior** to restoration. After the CRP contract expires the land will revert to the original wetland determination. The landowner can manipulate the hydrology only back to the baseline condition.

Wetland acreage eligibility can be determined independent of USDA wetland determinations or the FWS National Wetland Inventory although these sources should be used as references when determining eligibility. These areas will typically be considered as Farmed Wetland (FW) or Prior Converted Cropland (PC). This acreage will typically include all hydric soil map units (SMU) directly affected by the drainage and/or manipulation of the wetland. (In other words, when a hydric SMU is altered by drainage all acres in that SMU count as restorable wetland acres.) The CP-23 practice may also enroll a buffer limited to a ratio of 3 acres of buffer to 1 acre of restored wetland. The entire practice area including the buffer area may not extend beyond the 100-year floodplain.

Wetlands will be restored using the NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657. Seeding mixes for the wetland zone can be found in the 657 standard. Buffer areas for sites developed under a grassland ecosystem will be seeded according to NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Restoration of Declining Habitats Code 643, with a mixed stand of a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses, and 1 forb. Buffer areas for sites under a woodland ecosystem will use NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612. When restoring woodland ecosystems, plant hard mast species along with other species suitable for the wet nature of the site. As appropriate the NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 as above may also be included in a woodland ecosystem planting.

Sites without existing drainage systems or where restoration is not desirable may be eligible for practice CP31 Bottomland Tree Establishment on Wetlands, CP-21 Filter Strip, or CP-22 Riparian Buffer.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Wetland Restoration — **CP23** Version 2/05

APPLICANT: COUNTY: **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Restoration of Wetlands**

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Practice Eligibility:

1. Restorable wetland acres are located inside the 100-year flood plain?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

2. The area offered includes altered or manipulated wetlands or prior converted cropland areas that can have their hydrologic component restored? (Additional map documentation must identify each eligible site).

☐ Yes ☐ No**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ * Offered acres are not located inside the 100-year floodplain.

☐ ** The area offered can not have any of its hydrologic components restored.

Additional Ineligible Practice Areas:

☐ The area offered does not includes areas of altered or manipulated wetlands or prior converted cropland.

☐ Restoration will occur only through cessation of cropping.

Site Suitability (from site visit)

Document whether native vegetation is herbaceous or woodland.

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ The entire offered acres are not within the 100-year flood plain.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of restored wetland acres

Buffer Area*: feet

***Will not exceed 3:1 buffer to wetland ratio**

Total Size of practice area acres

CCRP Practice

CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

The purpose of the practice is to restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use that are entirely outside the 100-year floodplain.

Eligible sites are limited to only those wetland areas that have had the wetland hydrology component removed through alteration by drainage and/or manipulation and where it is feasible and practical to restore the wetland. If any of the hydrologic components of the wetland cannot be restored through removing, blocking, manipulating or rendering inoperable the wetland drainage system and/or manipulation, the wetland area is not eligible for enrollment. Cropping cessation and the subsequent establishment of vegetation on a wetland area in itself is not considered an eligible restoration option.

All restorable wetland areas must meet USDA wetland criteria. This means that it, 1) contains hydric soils, 2) meets wetland hydrology criteria (when restored), and 3) has or will have after restoration, hydrophytic vegetation. The goal of this practice is to restore the wetland ecosystem to the maximum extent possible. Initial wetland restoration feasibility assessments must be completed by a qualified individual and must consider avoiding impacts to adjacent properties, utilities, or other infrastructures unless approvals, permits or consents are attainable. This assessment must include an evaluation of the depth, width and extent of the existing drainage system and its impact on the site's hydric soils. When enrolling areas it is important to document the baseline hydrologic conditions **prior** to restoration. After the CRP contract expires the land will revert to the original wetland determination. The landowner can manipulate the hydrology only back to the baseline condition.

Wetland acreage eligibility can be determined independent of USDA wetland determinations or the FWS National Wetland Inventory although these sources should be used as references when determining eligibility. These areas will typically be considered as Farmed Wetland (FW) or Prior Converted Cropland (PC). This acreage will typically include all hydric soil map units (SMU) directly affected by the drainage and/or manipulation of the wetland. (In other words, when a hydric SMU is altered by drainage all acres in that SMU count as wetland acres.) The CP-23A practice may also enroll a buffer limited to the number of acres required to provide protective buffer to the cropped wetland and to enhance wildlife habitat not to exceed a ratio of 4 acres of buffer to 1 acre of restored wetland.

Apply this practice to eligible wetlands and associated acreage that are any of the following: located outside the 100-year floodplain, playa lakes, land that is not eligible for enrollment in the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP). Vegetation establishment criteria are dependent on the native ecosystem. The native ecosystem can be determined by the soil survey or by the native vegetation maps (TRYGG maps)

Wetlands will be restored using the NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657. Seeding mixes for the wetland zone can be found in the 657 standard. Buffer areas for sites developed under a grassland ecosystem will be seeded according to NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Restoration of Declining Habitats 643 using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Buffer areas for sites under a woodland ecosystem will use NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612. When restoring woodland ecosystems, plant hard mast species along with other species suitable for the wet nature of the site.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain — **CP23A** Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Restoration of Wetlands**

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility:

1. Restorable wetland acres are located outside the 100-year floodplain?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

2. The area offered includes altered or manipulated wetlands or prior converted cropland areas that can have their hydrologic component restored? (Additional map documentation must identify each eligible site).

☐ Yes ☐ No**

3. Offered acres are not eligible for enrollment in the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP). ☐ Yes ☐ No***

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The offered acres are not located outside the 100-year floodplain.

☐ **The area offered does not include areas of altered or manipulated, wetlands and/or prior converted cropland.

☐ ***The area offered can not have any of its hydrologic components restored.

Additional Ineligible Practice Areas:

☐ Restoration will occur only through cessation of cropping.

Site Suitability (from site visit)

Document whether native vegetation is herbaceous or woodland.

Notes:

_____

Unsuitable Site:

☐ The entire offered acres do not support hydrophytic vegetation.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of restored wetland _____ acres

Buffer Area (optional)*: _____** feet

*If required to protect and enhance the practice.

**Will not exceed 4:1 buffer to wetland ratio.

Total Size of practice area _____ acres

CCRP Practice

CP24 Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover as Cross Wind Trap Strips

The purpose of this practice is to establish at least 2 strips, not to exceed 5 strips, varying in size, of permanent vegetative cover resistant to wind erosion perpendicular to the prevailing wind directions on eligible cropland determined to have a wind erodibility index greater than or equal to 4 (EI>=4) that will; reduce on-farm wind erosion, trap wind-borne sediments and sediment borne contaminants and help protect public health and safety.

This practice will be designed according to the NRCS Practice Standard Cross Wind Trap Strips, Code 589C. The buffer strips must be designed using the Wind Erosion Equation.

The amount of grass strips eligible for this practice cannot exceed 10% of the total field acreage. Offers consisting of multiple trap strips will be designed and spaced using the Wind Erosion Equation. Permanent vegetation shall be at minimum 12 inches in height at maturity. At least 2 strips that meet the size requirements are required for this practice. Each strip shall be a minimum of 15 feet in width, not to exceed 25 feet wide and will be established perpendicular to the prevailing winds.

Deposition of trapped soil materials shall be removed when the accumulated sediment in the cross wind trap strips exceeds 6 inches in depth. Cover shall be reseeded at producer's expense after accumulated sediment is removed.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover As Cross Wind Trap Strips — **CP24**

Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Wind Erosion

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility:

Erosion Index (EI) is equal to or greater than 4? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Soil Map Unit Symbol* _____ or Soil Map Unit Name* _____

*** Use predominant soil of significant extent for planning purposes**

Enter the Soil Loss Tolerance of Map Unit (T) tons/acre/year _____

C Factor for County _____ I Factor for Soil Map Unit _____

EI* = _____

***EI = C*I/T**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ * Wind erosion EI is less than 4.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Notes:

_____

☐ The site is unsuitable for the practice

Extent of Practice:

Number of trap strips*

*** Total acreage cannot exceed 10% of the field**

Width (FT)**

**** 15 ft. minimum to 25 ft. maximum for each row**

Row 1	
Row 2	
Row 3	
Row 4	
Row 5	

CCRP Practice

CP27 Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)
CP28 Farmable Wetlands Buffer

When enrolling acres into CP27, practice CP28 is also **required**. The purpose of the CP27 practice is to restore the functions and values of wetlands that have been devoted to agricultural use. Hydrology and vegetation must be restored to the maximum extent possible, as determined by NRCS. The maximum acceptable size for a CP27 is 10 acres of which only 5 acres are eligible for payment. The purpose of the CP28 is to provide a vegetative buffer around the CP27 to remove sediment, nutrients, and pollutants from impacting the wetland and to provide wildlife habitat for the associated wetland. The maximum amount per tract for both CP27/CP28 is limited 40 acres.

Offered areas in the 100-year floodplain, as determined by NRCS, are **NOT eligible for this practice**. Acreage permanently under water is also ineligible. Areas eligible for this practice include wetlands (W), farmed wetlands (FW) and prior converted cropland (PC). NRCS will determine the location and boundaries of the above areas, and will determine the extent of wetland hydrology to be restored and re-vegetation requirements of the buffer area.

Hydrology and vegetation must be restored to the maximum extent practical. Use NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657 to establish the practice. Cessation of cropping a "W" can be considered as restoration only when no other hydrologic manipulation has occurred. If the site is "FW" or "PC" all on-site tile lateral lines will be broken or plugged and tile intakes removed. Sites with drainage systems serving upstream neighbors who are not interested in restoration activity will be designed to not impede upstream drainage. Multiple landowner main tile lines, that carry upstream water and that are 8 inches or less in size, will be replaced with non-perforated tile. When these main tile lines exceed 8 inches the practice designer has the option of leaving these lines alone. When enrolling areas it is important to document the baseline hydrologic conditions **prior** to restoration. After the CRP contract expires the land will revert to the original wetland determination. The landowner can manipulate the hydrology only back to the baseline condition.

CP28 buffers are mandatory to the extent where they are possible to be established (see scenario 5) and the amount is dependent on the amount of wetland eligible to be enrolled, not the total wetland area (see scenario 1). The minimum CP28 buffer for a CP27 is 30 feet and the maximum average width cannot exceed 150 feet or 3 times the size of the eligible wetland. Buffers cannot contain restored wetlands. Buffer areas must be restored to either a grassland ecosystem with grass and shrubs or a woodland ecosystem with tree cover. NRCS will use soil survey and/or TRYGG Native Vegetation maps to identify acceptable buffer vegetation.

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657 will be used for CP27 including wetland seeding mixes. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Restoration of Declining Habitat Code 643 will be used for CP28 using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Vegetation will be restored as closely to the original natural plant community as possible for CP27. Cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan. See Examples for applying these practices next page.

FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Scenario 1: Pothole intersects Tract 1 and 2

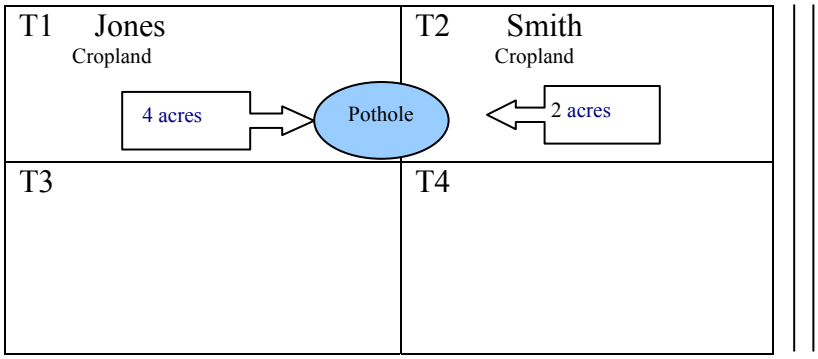


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tract 1 is owned by Farmer Jones
- Tract 2 is owned by Farmer Smith
- The wetland contains 4.0 acres on Tract 1
- The wetland contains 2.0 acres on Tract 2
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met.
- Contract possibilities
  - Farmer Jones could place the 4.0 acres of wetlands in tract 1 under contract with the minimum/maximum buffer. The portion of wetland located on tract 2 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the 2.0 acres of wetland under contract with the minimum/maximum buffer. The portion of wetland that is located on tract 1 would not be required to be placed under contract.
  - Both farmer Jones and Smith could place their portions of the wetland under contract with the minimum/maximum buffer.

Notes:

Scenario 2: Pothole intersects Tract 1 and 2

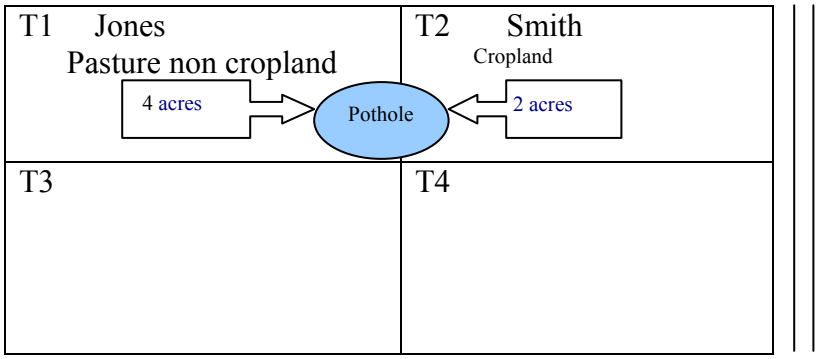


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tract 1 is owned by Farmer Jones
- Tract 2 is owned by Farmer Smith
- The wetland contains 4.0 acres on Tract 1
- The wetland contains 2.0 acres on Tract 2
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met on tract 2 but not tract 1 as it does meet cropping history requirements. Tract 1 is considered pastureland.
- Contract possibilities
  - The 4.0 acres of wetland on tract 1 is ineligible to be placed under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the 2.0 acres of wetland under contract with the minimum/maximum buffer.

Notes:

Scenario 3 The linear wetland intersects tracts 1,2,3 & 4

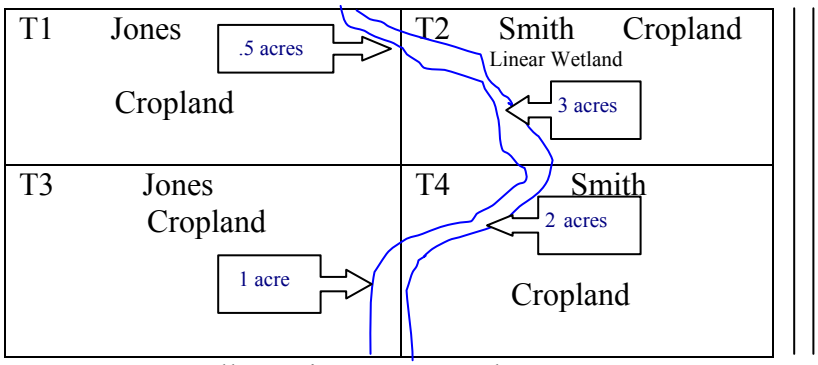


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tracts1 and 3 are owned by Farmer Jones
- Tracts 2 and 4 are owned by Farmer Smith
- The wetland on tract 1 is .5 of an acre
- The wetland on tract 2 is 3.0 acres
- The wetland on tract 3 is 1.0 acres
- The wetland on tract 4 is 2.0 acres
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met.
- Contract possibilities:
  - Farmer Jones could place the portion of the wetland on tract 1 under contract while the remaining wetland on tracts 2 through 4 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Jones could place the portion of the wetland on tract 3 under contract while the remaining wetland on tracts 1, 2 and 4 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Jones could place the portion of wetlands contained on tract 1 and 3 under contract while the remaining wetland acres on tracts 2 and 4 would not be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of the wetland on tract 2 under contract while the remaining wetland on tracts 1, 3 and 4 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of the wetland on tract 4 under contract while the remaining wetland on tracts 1, 2 and 3 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of wetland on tracts 2 and 4 under contract without the wetland acres located on tracts 1 and 3.
  - All four tracts could have a contract for the portion of the linear wetland contained within the boundaries of the tract.

Notes:

Scenario 4 The linear wetland intersects tracts 1, 2, 3 & 4

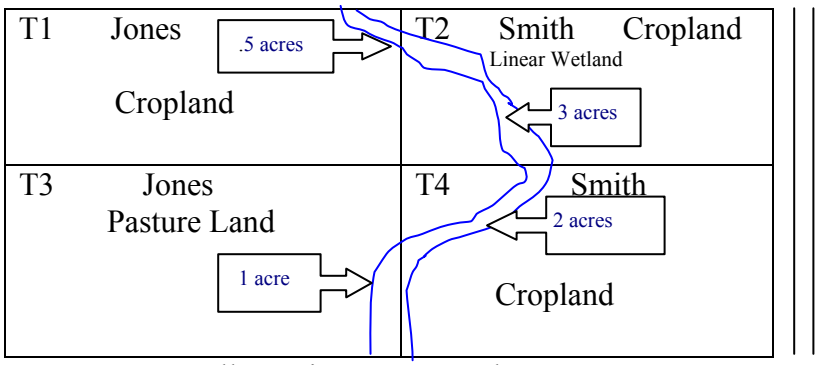


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tracts1 and 3 are owned by Farmer Jones
- Tracts 2 and 4 are owned by Farmer Smith
- The wetland on tract 1 is .5 of an acre
- The wetland on tract 2 is 3.0 acres
- The wetland on tract 3 is 1.0 acres
- The wetland on tract 4 is 2.0 acres
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met on tracts 1, 2, and 4. Tract 3 is ineligible because it is devoted to pasture land.
- Contract possibilities:
  - Farmer Jones could place the portion of the wetland on tract 1 under contract while the remaining wetland on tracts 2 through 4 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of wetland on tract 2 under contract without the wetland acres located on tracts 1, 3 and 4.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of wetland on tract 4 under contract without the wetland acres located on tracts 1, 2 and 3.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of wetland on tracts 2 and 4 under contract without the wetland acres located on tracts 1 and 3.
  - Tracts 1, 2, and 4 could have a contract for the portion of the linear wetland contained within the boundaries of the tract.

Notes:

Scenario 5 The pothole in the SE corner of Tract 4

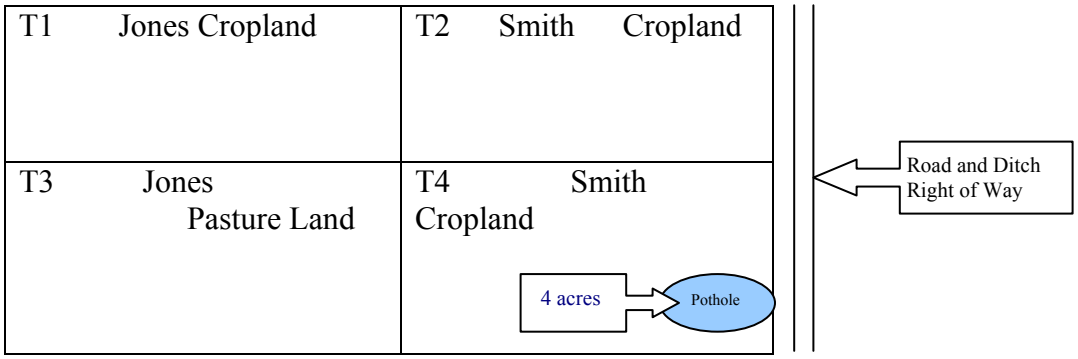


Illustration Not to Scale

- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met.

  The pothole totally contained in tract 4 adjoins a road right of way (ditch). We are unable to place the minimum buffer around the area that adjoins the ditch. Previously we determined that this was ineligible because we could not place the minimum buffer around the entire wetland. In light of the clarification on linear or sloped wetlands, this acreage will now be determined eligible for the program with the minimum buffer being established, where possible, around the wetland.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Farmable Wetlands Program
Farmable Wetlands Buffer

CP27/28

Version 2/05

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Restore wetlands and vegetation to maximum extent possible

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Each area offered includes areas of "PC", "W", "FW" or "FWP" that are less then 10 acres in size?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *Offer does not includes areas of "PC", "W", "FW" or "FWP" or has areas that exceed 10 acres in size.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Hydrology can be restored on the offered acres?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

An adequate buffer that will effectively remove sediments, nutrients and pollutants can be established?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ *State reason(s);

Extent of eligible area:

Size of wetland (CP27) acres

(The maximum per tract acreage for CP27 and CP28 is 40 acres.)

Size of buffer (CP28): ft.

Minimum size is 30 ft.

CCRP Practice

CP29 Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer

The purpose of this practice is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystems of the water body. By restoring native plant communities, characteristics for the site will assist is stabilizing stream banks, reducing flood damage impacts, and restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat. The presence of livestock is a prerequisite for initial eligibility.

This practice is limited to marginal pastureland areas that are not suitable for tree planting. NRCS or TSP determines that the marginal pastureland is not suitable to be devoted to trees. If the marginal pastureland is determined to be suitable for tree planting it is not eligible for CP29 (It may be eligible for CP22).

The NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 and Table 2 in particular will be used for seeding purposes using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Shrubs may also be used in the practice. Vegetative establishment by burning, mechanical or chemical manipulation and natural regeneration is not allowed. Perennial native vegetation must be planted to meet the requirements of this practice.

The minimum acceptable width is 20 feet. A wildlife habitat buffer may be applied up to a maximum average width of 120 feet if needed to accomplish the purpose of the practice. NRCS or a TSP must document the need for a minimum design specification in excess of 120 feet in writing.

Determine whether the land is suitable to be devoted to a wildlife habitat buffer, the wildlife habitat buffer is needed and feasible and the marginal pastureland is capable, once the practice is established, of substantially reducing pollutants in the adjacent stream or other water body.

Marginal Pastureland Eligibility Requirements
The eligibility requirements for marginal pastureland are found in 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Paragraph 112C, page 6-7. Discussion of marginal pastureland and trees is found in 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Paragraph 112D, page 6-9.

Additional Guidance for Watering Facilities
This practice allows for cost sharing the establishment of alternative watering facilities and fencing only when livestock are present on the site and the enrollment into CCRP removes the source of livestock water. Fences will be established according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fencing Code 382. There are 2 options for alternative water sources; 1. water facilities such as troughs and tanks, and 2. water developments for example dug, bored or drilled wells or springs or ponds. The choice of alternative water source will be the **lowest cost option** suitable for the situation. Alternative water sources will be designed according to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Watering Facilities Code 614. All landowners receiving cost share assistance on watering facilities will be encouraged to develop a separate prescribed grazing plan on their grazeable non-CRP acres.

Sites are not eligible if the existing vegetation is already established and removing the livestock (by itself) would solve the resource problem.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer

CP29
Version 2/05

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Quality

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acres are marginal pastureland with livestock currently present?
☐ Yes ☐ No*

The natural vegetation for the site is primarily a mix of grasses, shrubs and forbs?
☐ Yes ☐ No**

The marginal pastureland offered is immediately adjacent and parallel to one of the following locations? (If yes, check one below). ☐ Yes ☐ No***

- ☐ **A.** Perennial Stream
- ☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:
  - ☐ 1. USGS maps
  - ☐ 2. County soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
  - ☐ 3. On-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped
- ☐ **C.** Sinkholes
- ☐ **D.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years (i.e. lakes, ponds, etc.)

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The offered acres are not marginal pastureland or livestock not currently present.

☐ **The natural vegetation includes trees. (Site may be eligible for CP22)

☐ ***The offered acres are not immediately adjacent and parallel to a water body that provides a permanent flow of water through out the year in all years.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

An area at least 20 feet wide is suitable and available for an adequate wildlife buffer?
☐ Yes ☐ No*

The site is not considered a remnant prairie and is suitable for seeding or plowing?
☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ *The site is unsuitable or unavailable for a wildlife buffer.

☐ **The site is considered a remnant prairie and is unsuitable for seeding or would need to be plowed.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of wildlife buffer area* acres

***The buffer width will be a minimum of 20 feet and will not exceed an average maximum width of 120 ft**

CCRP Practice

CP30 Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer

The purpose of this practice is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystems of the water body. The practice will enhance and/or restore hydrology and plant communities associated with existing or degraded wetland complexes. The goal is to enhance water quality, reduce nutrient and pollutant levels, and improve wildlife habitat. The presence of livestock would be a prerequisite for initial eligibility.

The minimum acceptable width is 20 feet. A wetland buffer may be applied up to a maximum average width of 120 feet if needed to accomplish the purpose of the practice. NRCS or a TSP must document the need for a minimum design specification in excess of 120 feet in writing.

The NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 will be used for seeding and planting purposes using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Trees and shrubs can also be established on this practice following the NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment. Vegetative establishment by burning, mechanical or chemical manipulation and natural regeneration is not allowed. Perennial native vegetation must be planted to meet the requirements of this practice.

Marginal Pastureland Eligibility Requirements
The eligibility requirements for marginal pastureland are found in 2-CRP Paragraph 112C, page 6-7.

Additional Guidance for Watering Facilities
This practice allows for cost sharing the establishment of alternative watering facilities and fencing only when livestock are present on the site and the enrollment into CCRP removes the source of livestock water. Fences will be established according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fencing Code 382. There are 2 options for alternative water sources; 1. water facilities such as troughs and tanks, and 2. water developments for example dug, bored or drilled wells or springs or ponds. The choice of alternative water source will be the **lowest cost option** suitable for the situation. Alternative water sources will be designed according to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Watering Facilities Code 614. All landowners receiving cost share assistance on watering facilities will be encouraged to develop a separate prescribed grazing plan on their grazeable non-CRP acres.

Sites are not eligible if the existing vegetation is already established and removing the livestock (by itself) would solve the resource problem.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer

CP30
Version 2/05

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Quality

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acres are marginal pastureland with livestock currently present?
☐ Yes ☐ No*

Offered acres are immediately adjacent and parallel to one of the following locations? (If yes, check one below). ☐ Yes ☐ No**

- ☐ **A.** Perennial Stream
- ☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:
  - ☐ 1. USGS maps
  - ☐ 2. County soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
  - ☐ 3. On-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped
- ☐ **C.** Wetland determined to be Cowardin classification of select one
- ☐ **D.** Sinkholes
- ☐ **E.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years (i.e. lakes, ponds, etc.)

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The offered acres are not marginal pastureland or livestock is not currently present.

☐ **The offered acres are not immediately adjacent and parallel to a water body that provides a permanent flow of water through out the year in all years.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

An area at least 20 feet wide is suitable and available for an adequate wetland buffer?
☐ Yes ☐ No*

The site is not considered a remnant prairie and is suitable for seeding or plowing?
☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ *The site is unsuitable or unavailable for a wildlife buffer.

☐ **The site is considered a remnant prairie and is unsuitable for seeding or would need to be plowed.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of wetland buffer area* acres

***The buffer width will be a minimum of 20 feet and will not exceed an average maximum width of 120 ft.**

CCRP Practice

CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands

The purpose of this practice is to establish a stand of trees that will:

- control sheet, rill, scour, and other erosion
- reduce water, air, or land pollution
- restore and enhance the natural and beneficial functions of wetlands
- promote carbon sequestration
- restore and connect wildlife habitat.

The acreage offered must be within the recognized 100-year flood plain of a river or stream with permanent flow. Use local floodplain maps or soil survey information to determine the existence and location of the 100-year floodplain. NRCS will determine the location and boundaries of the above areas.

Natural regeneration is **NOT** permitted under this practice.

Trees planted should be primarily bottomland hardwood trees. NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612 will be used to design this practice. Softwood trees must comprise less than 25% of the total number of trees to be planted. Enrolled offers must have a minimum of 3 native hardwood tree or shrub species planted.

Species selected must be suitable and adapted to the site conditions, soils and climate and to the purpose of the practice.

Cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands — **CP31** Version 2/05

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
1. **Water Quality**
2. **Wildlife Habitat**
3. **Reduce Pollution**
4. **Promote Carbon Sequestration**
5. **Enhance Wetlands**

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acres are located within the 100-year flood plain*? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

*Of a permanent river or stream.

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The offered acres are not located within a 100-year flood plain.

Site Suitability (from site visit)

Offered acres can support bottomland hardwood trees*?

*Softwoods must be less than 25% of the total number of trees planted.

☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

_____

Unsuitable Site:

☐ **The offered acres will not support bottomland hardwood trees.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of eligible area _____ acres

Appendix A

STATEMENT OF WORK
CRP CONSERVATION PLANS
Minnesota

These deliverables apply to the development of all Continuous CRP conservation plans. Each approved practice will also have a detailed statement of work listing planned practice deliverables.

Continuous CRP Plan Development

Deliverables:

1. Planning documents will be developed using ToolKit and include the use of the planning module, contract wizard and CRP cost list. Required planning activities and final documentation will include;
    a. Scheduling an appointment with the contract holder to verify approved CRP practices to be planned.
    b. Verifying, via an in-field review and completing the "Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability Worksheets" for the appropriate CRP practice , that the approved practice is applicable to the site and will serve the purpose and function intended.
    c. Meeting the requirements in the Minnesota Upland Treatment policy.
    d. Completion of the Environmental Evaluation form NRCS-CPA-052.
    e. Completion of form Cons. 68 (in ToolKit)
    f. Completion of form LTP-CPA-1155 (in ToolKit)
    g. Obtaining all appropriate signatures on planning documents
    h. Assembling all planning forms into a case file folder
    i. Providing copies of all completed forms to the contract holder and FSA
    j. Explaining all conservation planning provisions to the contract holder

CRP PRACTICE DESIGN (also see practice specific Statement of Work)

Deliverables:

2. Design documents that demonstrate criteria in NRCS practice standards have been met and are compatible with planned and applied practices
    a. Practice purpose(s) as identified in the conservation plan.
    b. List of required permits to be obtained by the client
    c. List all required and/or facilitating practices
    d. Practice standard criteria-related computations and analyses to develop plans and specifications including but not limited to:
        i. Planting dates
        ii. Site preparation
        iii. Species selection, varieties used, seeding rates, method of seeding
        iv. Management of vegetation after establishment
        v. Wildlife considerations
        vi. Mid-contract management activities
        vii. Managed haying and grazing provisions
3. Written plans and specifications including sketches and drawings shall be provided to the client that adequately describes the requirements to install the practice and obtain necessary permits. Plans and specifications shall be developed in accordance with the appropriate conservation practice standard.
4. Operation and maintenance plan
5. Certification that the design meets practice standard criteria and complies with applicable laws and regulations
6. Design modifications during application as required.
7. Job sheets as appropriate
8. Signed Legal Responsibilities certification form if requested by NRCS.
    a. Actual materials to be used
    b. Pure live seed calculations, where required

REFERENCES

- NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), Section IV, Conservation Practice Standard
- National Planning Procedure Handbook, including the Minnesota Amendments
- 2-CRP Manual Revision 4
- NRCS National Forestry Manual
- NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook
- NRCS National Biology Manual
- NRCS National Environmental Compliance Handbook
- NRCS Cultural Resources Handbook

Appendix B

Definitions

Actively engaged in farming
According to 1-PL (Rev. 1) Amend 44 a landowner shall be considered "actively engaged in farming" if all of the following requirements are met:

1) The landowner contributes owned land to the farming operation from which the landowner receives rent or income for the use of the land based on the land's production or the operation's operating results;
2) The landowner's share of the profits or losses from the farming operation is commensurate with the landowner's contribution to the operation;
3) The landowner's contributions are at risk.

Farmstead:
A farm (a tract of land cultivated for agricultural production) including it's land and buildings.

Natural regeneration:
For CP22, the customer may elect natural regeneration provided all of the following are met:

No cost share shall be paid for the practice.

The customer will plant the approved cover without cost share, according to a revised conservation plan, if the riparian buffer is not established through natural regeneration within 2 years of the CRP-1 effective date.

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Early Successional Habitat Development/Management, Code 647, is used to identify natural regeneration.

NRCS or TSP shall spot check the site at the end of the second year to determine whether the riparian buffer is established and meet the standards and specifications for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391.

Wetland Classification Definitions

Table 3: Wetland Classifications for CCRP Eligibility

	HERBACEOUS	SCRUB-SHRUB	FORESTED
SEASONALLY FLOODED	PEMC	PSS(1-5)C	PFO(1,2,4,5)C
SEMI-PERMANENTLY FLOODED	PEMF	PSS(1-5)F	PFO(1,2,4,5)F
INTERMITTENTLY EXPOSED	PEMG	PSS(1-5)G	NA
PERMANENTLY FLOODED	PEMH	NA	NA

Note: There are 15 Wetland categories according to the USFWS Wetland Classification System (refer to the following website: http://wetlands.fws.gov/mapcodes.htm). The four categories listed above are used **only** for the following CRP practices: CP21, CP22 and CP30.